

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2003

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, GR

SUBJECT: POLYTECHNION VERDICTS CRITICIZED--CALL FOR CYPRUS

TRIAL ALSO VOICED

REF: ATHENS 7884

1. VERDICTS ISSUED IN THE POLYTECHNION TRIAL ON DECEMBER 30 (REFTEL) WERE CRITICIZED BY SOME OPPOSITION LEADERS AS TOO LENIENT. IN ADDITION, THE CALL WAS REITERATED FOR AN EARLY CONVENING OF THE TRIAL OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE JULY 1974 COUP AGAINST ARCHBISHIP MAKARIOS IN CYPRUS.

2. PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU CHARACTERIZED THE COURT DECISION AS A MOCKERY OF THE GREEK PEOPLE AND ASSERTED THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR THE SEVERE PUNISHMENT OF THE GUILTY AND FOR THE FULL CLEANSING OF THE STATE MACHINERY WOULD CONTINUE. CU/NF LEADER MAVROS DID NOT CRITICIZE THE VERDICTS PER SE, BUT RATHER ASSERTED THAT THE COURT'S DECISION SANCTIFIED THE POLYTECHNION UPRISE AS THE "MOST IMPORTANT ACT OF RESISTANCE AGAINST THE TYRANNY." MAVROS CALLED FOR THE GOVT TO HOLD A TRIAL OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "CYPRUS TREACHERY." HE STATED THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO

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JUSTIFY ANY FURTHER DELAY IN HOLDING THE TRIAL OF THOSE

RESPONSIBLE FOR "THE GREATEST CRIME OF THE SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD."

3. THE GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY-INTERIOR (KKE-INTERIOR)

MEANWHILE, ISSUED A STATEMENT ON THE POLYTECHNION SENTENCES WHICH CALLED THE PUNISHMENT "DISPROPORTIONATELY LENIENT" AND ASSERTED ADDITIONALLY THAT TOO MANY DEFENDANTS WERE ACQUITTED. IT DECLARED THAT THE VERDICTS DID NOT SATISFY POPULAR FEELING AND DID NOT JUSTIFY THE SACRIFICES MADE BY THE "HEROES OF THE POLYTECHNION." THE STATEMENT ALSO INVITED THE GREEK PEOPLE TO STRUGGLE MORE DECISIVELY FOR DEJUNTAZATION AND A FULL CLEANSING OF JUNTA INFLUENCES. THE KKE-INTERIOR ALSO CALLED FOR A TRIAL TO BE HELD REGARDING "THE COUP AGAINST PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AND TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE GUILTY OF THAT GREAT NATIONAL TREACHERY."

4. EDA'S ILIOU EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE TRIAL HAD PUT AN END TO A MATTER WHICH HAD KEPT THE GREEK PEOPLE IN A STATE OF UNEASE. HOWEVER, HE ASSERTED THE NECESSITY TO BEGIN A TRIAL FOR THOSE GUILTY OF THE CYPRUS COUP. IN ITS STATEMENT THE COMMUNIST PARTY-EXTERIOR DECLARED THAT THE VERDICTS JUSTIFIED ITS VIEW THAT THE QUESTION OF THE CLEANSING OF THE STATE FROM THE LEGACY OF THE JUNTA IS ABOVE ALL A POLITICAL ISSUE AND A MATTER OF GOVERNMENT POLICY.

5. IN REACTION TO THE ABOVE CRITICISM A GOVERNMENT SOURCE STATED THAT "THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT APPROVE OF THE CONTINUING TACTIC OF A PORTION OF THE OPPOSITION OF CRITICIZING THE DECISIONS OF INDEPENDENT JUSTICE." ANOTHER GOVERNMENT STATEMENT INDICATED THAT AS FAR AS A CYPRUS TRIAL IS CONCERNED, IT WILL BE HELD WHEN NATIONAL SECURITY PERMITS.  
KUBISCH

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